

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – aligning the employment creation with anti-poverty strategies - Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 245

Dated:09.07.2010.

Read the following:

1. MGNREG Act 2005
2. Lr No.11060/3/2009 NREGA Ministry of Rural Development,
Govt., of India Dated 1st Sept 2009
3. G.O. Ms No. 550, PR & RD (RD.II) Dept dated

ORDER

The section 4(3) of the MG NREG Act 2005 provides for publishing a Scheme incorporating therein works which can be taken up under MG NREGS. The Schedule I of the Act has provided for 8 categories of permissible works. Further, vide reference cited 2 above, Government of India notified that 'Works on the lands of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes households will be taken on priority. Once works on the lands of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes are saturated in a Gram Panchayat works on lands of small and marginal farmers may be considered'. Government of AP have published the scheme vide reference 3 cited above prescribing the modalities for execution of works. In accordance with the above, and from time to time, number of works have been identified and execution done. So far, estimates of 147 works are made available in the NREGS software. Till 2009-10, an amount of Rs.12,100 Cr has been expended on executing these works.

2. Government of AP is of a firm view that the expenditure made under MGNREGS for creating employment shall simultaneously improve the asset base of the rural poor so that they derive higher sustainable incomes. In this respect, investments being made under MGNREGS are also to be considered as investments in anti-poverty strategy. Random studies done on the ability of the existing NREG works in improving the natural resources at the command of the rural poor, suggested for more focused investments on the lands available with the poor; so that works taken up under MGNREGS shall bring measurable increase in the productivity of the resources with the PoP households. A detailed discussion with the senior officers, academicians and NGOs held on 27th June 2010 has thrown up the following conclusions:

- a) A quantum jump in the productivity of the small-holder agriculture is the best available strategy for poverty eradication.
- b) Such a productivity increase can be achieved by a focused investment of MGNREG funds on lands of poorest of poor.
- c) As and when full development of the lands of the SCs/STs has been achieved in a village resulting in optimum productivity, the lands of the other SF/MF farmers can be taken up for treatment. For this purpose, the SF/MF farmer is one who owns less than 2 ½ acres of wet land or 5 acres of dry land and worked in MGNREGA for at least 20 days either in 2009-10 or in 2010-11 till June 2010.

3. Commissioner Rural Development suggested amending the scheme so that focus of the works can be on improving productivity of the lands of the poorest of poor households (SCs/STs) through multiple treatments. Land of each farmer will be considered as a Project – consisting of all necessary treatments so as to achieve an annual income of Rs. 25,000 per acre. It has been proposed that MGNREGS works shall be in the categories stated below in order of priority:

[P.T.O]

- i) Development of fallow land with the SC/ST households into cultivation and implementation of sustainable agriculture using organic cultivation methods.
- ii) Development of land of SC/ST households under cultivation to enable them to achieve highest possible productivity; by taking up soil & moisture conservation measures, suitable irrigation works and organic cultivation practices. For this purpose, the land taken on 5-yr lease can also be considered.
- iii) Similar Projects for development of fallow land of all the SF/MF farmers (farmers who own less than 2 ½ acres of wet land or 5 acres of dry land and worked in MGNREGA for at least 20 days either in 2009-10 or in 2010-11 till June 2010)
- iv) Creation & maintenance of new irrigation facilities so as to ensure availability of water for SC/ST lands and after saturating them, other small and marginal farmers
- v) Maintenance of irrigation drains
- vi) Watershed treatment and Ground water recharging project in the 'over exploited' and 'critical' villages
- vii) Extensive tree plantation on the bunds of the farmers, on the avenues – setting up bio-mass nursery under the IKP Village Organization.
- viii) Development of Community lands and public institution areas
- ix) Maintenance of the drinking water sources & cattle ponds
- x) Flood control works
- xi) Internal roads in villages along with covered drainage

4. Government, after careful consideration of the above proposal approve the same and direct as follows:

- a) Farmer-based projects: Land of each individual farmer shall be considered as a separate project and shall have multi-layered treatments so as to achieve optimum productivity.
- b) Shelf: The shelf of projects in each village shall be only as per the categories as stated in Para 3 above. Adequate number of works shall be identified in all categories so as to provide work to all who apply for it. Once the works have been identified in the manner given in this order, they shall completely replace the existing shelf.
- c) The order of priority shall mean at least 75% expenditure (of the estimated cost) on the works in the previous category. Only after this, shall the next category shall be operated. Suitable modifications shall accordingly be made in the software.
- d) Agencies for land development: SERP shall be the implementing agency for projects for improving the lands of SCs/STs. In non-CMSA villages, soil & moisture conservation works following the CMSA model in lands belonging to SCs/STs and (after completing that) of small and marginal farmers will be executed by the existing NREGA machinery under the DWMAs. SERP shall undertake imparting the organic cultivation practices in all villages.
- e) Plan preparation for lands: The Land cell of SERP will prepare the land inventory of SCs/STs requiring development along with the input data sheets. For the other SF/MF category, Mandal NREG staff shall do the identification. CRD and CCEO SERP are requested to ensure that the **identification of these lands & building up new shelf shall be completed before November 2010.**

- f) Closure of works: The Engineering Consultant or Check Measurement Officer (CMO) will visit the worksite and close the work using mobile application from worksite, only after ensuring that the Project is fully developed. The department shall give high priority for the closure of works. The CRD will work out appropriate MIS reports on this and continuously monitor this aspect.
- g) Capacity Building: The land development projects to be taken up under MGNREGS shall be under the over all concept of sustainable Agriculture. The CRD and CEO, SERP shall ensure that every land of SC and ST farmers is brought to cultivation and promote the sustainable agriculture by taking up various best agricultural practices like water and moisture conservation, tree based farming and NPM etc. For this purpose, the SERP shall share their resources on Sustainable Agriculture with CRD by training the State Resource Persons of RD and in turn the SRPs will build the capacity of field functionaries in the implementation of Land Development Project for Sustainable Agriculture.
5. A Copy of this order is available on the Internet and can be accessed at the address <http://www.rd.ap.gov.in>

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

R.SUBRAHMANYAM
PPRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD)

To
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP
The Commissioner, Rural Development
The Director, EGS, O/o the Commissioner, Rural Development, Hyderabad
The District Collectors and District Programme Coordinators of all 22 Districts
The Project Directors, DWMA
Project Directors, DRDAs

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER